

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

April 22, 2008

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AT LICENSED FOSTER/CHILD CARE FACILITIES

A State audit released on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 revealed that, of the 75,000 community care facilities licensed by the State's Community Care Licensing Division, the addresses of 49 registered sex offenders matched those of 46 licensed facilities statewide, including foster and child care homes. State investigators immediately inspected all 46 facilities to determine child safety. Fortunately, those investigations revealed no child abuse. Yet, based upon the results, the State suspended licenses for a number of facilities statewide, eight of which were in Los Angeles County - four foster and four child care homes. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) promptly removed two children from the only foster home that had children. The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) contacted the parents of any CalWORKs children served through the child care facilities, suspended payment authorizations, and alerted all child care referral agencies to immediately provide the parents of non-CalWORKs children with referrals to other licensed child care providers.

Under State law, the responsibility to report the names of any adults living in or associated with their facilities is that of foster and daycare licensees. A more reliable alert system must be instated through an interface between the State Department of Justice and Social Services databases. The DCFS Director is advocating with the State to develop an automatic alert system that will not rely on self-report or the results of periodic state audits, rather, if a sex offender attempts to register at an address where a foster care license is active, the State immediately alerts the County. The State must exercise greater diligence in monitoring these facilities. Los Angeles County must further improve upon the State's restrictions regarding where sex offenders may live. Even one occurrence is too many and no effort should be spared to ensure that sex offenders are not living with or near children.

M O R EMOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

BURKE _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Directors of Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, the County's Legislative Analysts and County Counsel, to report back in 14 days on:

1. Developing a protocol to alert the County whenever a sex offender attempts to register at an address that is State-licensed to provide foster or child care;
2. The development of a strict new County ordinance to strengthen the State's residency restrictions for sex offenders; and
3. Seeking legislation that will impose civil or criminal penalties on licensed foster and child care providers who allow and/or fail to report registered sex offenders on or near their facilities.

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